

## WISCONSIN

1. Sister School Program – Every other year, 12 Wisconsin teachers and one or two Department of Public Instruction staff travel to Wisconsin's Sister States in Hessen, Germany, and Chiba, Japan. The purpose is to gain an in-depth perspective of our sister state's education system and to teach in "sister schools." In return, teachers from Hessen and Chiba travel to Wisconsin for 2 weeks for a similar study exchange and teaching experience. Funding is shared between DPI, the local school district, and the individual. Wisconsin's sister state relationship with the Japanese prefecture of Chiba, located northeast of Tokyo, began in 1990, and with the German state of Hessen in 1976. These valuable partnerships have inspired hundreds of exchanges of students, legislators, and cultural groups.
2. Education Connection – Twelve to twenty teachers from Japan touch the lives and classrooms of 10,000 - 15,000 Wisconsin K-12 students, as part of a 3-month teaching and community experience. This program has been sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture for six consecutive years. Through the counterpart of this program, the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program, dozens of teachers and administrators have been selected through national competition to participate in 3-week study/travel grants in Japan.
3. Teacher/Student Exchange – Twelve of Wisconsin's agriculture education teachers learn about education, agriculture, business and industry, culture and the language of Puerto Rico, through a cost sharing project between the teachers and the Wisconsin State FFA Foundation. Agriculture students from Puerto Rican high schools visited Wisconsin and stayed with host sisters and brothers one year, with the Wisconsin students traveling to Puerto Rico the following summer. This project supports the globalization of the agriculture curriculum.
4. Teacher Education – New state regulations will strengthen the competencies of Wisconsin's language teachers and encourage more K-12 licensure. Teachers are now required to pass a measure of their oral ability in the language they will teach and to have an experience of immersion in the language and culture.
5. International Education Task Force – Two years ago, the Governor's Wisconsin International Trade Council chose International Education as a focus for research. Over 200 businesspersons, educators and citizens convened in six committees to make long- and short-term proposals. About six of the 40 final proposals were incorporated into legislative action, including \$2000 grants to university students for study abroad.
6. Teaching Languages in Elementary Grades – As a spin-off of one task force proposal to aggressively fund and develop more elementary world language programs, a small \$350,000 allocation created a grant program that funded six pilot projects to explore various uses of technology for teaching languages in elementary grades, including distance education.
7. Geography Endowment – In 2001, the Governor and Legislature of Wisconsin approved a one-time \$500,000 allocation for a geography endowment fund, the amount of which was matched by the National Geographic Foundation to create opportunities for greater geographic literacy for Wisconsin teachers and students. The endowment is administered by the Wisconsin Geographic Alliance, which maintains an active calendar of Geography Bees, teacher workshops, and summer institutes.
8. Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) – Wisconsin successfully applied for three-year grants from the US Department of Education of \$155,000 (1996-99) and \$210,000 (1999-2002) to train teachers to teach languages in elementary schools, provide modest program planning and salary

incentive grants to districts, and to improve teachers' skills in teaching and assessing communication. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) developed partnerships with districts, colleges and universities, and the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers.

9. International Guest Staff – From 1994-1996, Wisconsin DPI hosted a Japanese Language Consultant, Ms. Hisako Yoshiki, through the Japan Foundation. From 1987-2002, the state had the benefit of three consecutive German Language Consultants, Jens-Peter Green, Gerhard Fischer, and Reiner Sonntag. While funding for these international positions has ended, the Department did hire Dr. Fischer as an Education Program Coordinator, and he brings his bicultural and European perspective to numerous programs in the Department.
10. New Publications – Following years of work with Wisconsin teachers, Wisconsin Department of Publication released three new publications in 2002, *Planning Curriculum for Learning World Languages*, *Planning Curriculum in Social Studies*, and *Planning Curriculum in International Education*. All three guides promote the integration of global content into all curriculum areas, and the efforts to integrate curriculum are especially visible in the state's Agriculture Education Standards and Marketing Education Standards. *German for Communication*, *Japanese for Communication*, *Japanese Activities for the Classroom*, and *Multicultural Literature* are other DPI publications that teachers find helpful in making global linkages. View or order the publications at the DPI Publications Web site: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/eis/pubsales/index.html>.

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